

MARCH 2006

THE LATEST NEWS FROM TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Great American Cleanup
March 1 - May 31, 2006
www.kab.org

Civil War Preservation Trust
Park Day
April 1, 2006
<http://www.civilwar.org/parkday>

National Youth Service Day
April 21-23, 2006
www.ysa.org/nysd

Earth Day
April 22, 2006
www.earthday.org

National Volunteer Week
April 23-29, 2006
www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw

National Arbor Day
April 28, 2006
www.arboday.org

Join Hands Day
May 6, 2006
www.joinhandsday.org

Greetings from the Executive Director

I'm delighted to be writing to you all as the new Executive Director of Take Pride in America. When the Secretary appointed me last week, I was honored to have the opportunity to continue my tenure with a program that has been a passion of mine since 2003.

My predecessor, Marti Allbright, left big shoes to fill, but I hope to bring the same energy and enthusiasm to Take Pride that she did. I learned a lot from working with Marti and plan to build on our accomplishments of the last two years.

I hope to engage more Americans with the message of volunteerism and further our efforts through the PSA campaign and the programs that Take Pride has introduced over the years including the Take Pride Schools and Cities programs. There are many things we can do to further the philosophy of Take Pride, especially with the help of our partners and our growing list of supporters. I am excited to be on board and I look forward to seeing all of you out on the trail and lending a hand.



New Executive Director Michelle Cangelosi lends a hand during Great Outdoors Week.

Sincerely,

Michelle Cangelosi

Michelle Cangelosi

President Bush Welcomes New Members of President's Council on Service and Civic Participation

As USA Freedom Corps celebrates its fourth anniversary, it also welcomes new members of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

President Bush officially welcomed the new members to the White House on February 14 and afterward, Executive Director Michelle Cangelosi was present at the USA Freedom Corps reception to greet many of them.

In January of 2003, by Executive Order,

President George W. Bush announced the formation of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

The Council was established to recognize the important contributions Americans of all ages are making within their communities through service and civic engagement.

In January 2005, President Bush amended the Executive Order and extended the Council through January 2007.



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Mountain Biking Association to Provide Trail Care in National Parks



This spring and summer, across the country, members of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) will volunteer to create and maintain

biking trails throughout twelve of America's National Parks.

This volunteer initiative supports an agreement the National Park Service signed with IMBA last May to recognize mountain biking as an activity compatible with the values of the NPS. The inaugural event of the partnership took place this February 2-6 at the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, just outside of Redding, California.

Granite outcroppings, cascading waterfalls, and sunny skies greeted the Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew as they came prepared to work with the Redding Mountain Bike club to make bike trail improvements and reduce erosion.

To that end, the crew focused on designing, rerouting and maintaining trails to reduce water- and user-based erosion while enhancing the recreational ex-

perience for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians alike.

For more information about IMBA, the Trail Care Crew and a complete schedule, visit www.imba.com

2006 Upcoming IMBA Trail Care Crew Dates & Locations:

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, TN April 6-9

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, TN April 14

Cuyahoga Valley National Park, OH, April 20-23

Ft Dupont National Park/Riverbend Park, VA, April 27-30



National Parks America Tour to Benefit 28 Parks in 2006

From Homestead, Florida to Jackson, Wyoming, the 2006 National Parks America Tour promises to build on previous years by contributing more than 100,000 volunteer manpower hours to the National Park Service. The annual tour of the National Parks kicked off on February 18 at Gulf Islands National Seashore in Gulf Breeze, Florida.



A park ranger guides a young volunteer at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, Illinois.

The National Parks America Tour is a volunteer-driven initiative designed to provide America's National Parks with volunteer resources to complete important projects and engage communities in the National Park experience.

Sponsored by Unilever, as well as Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., the National Park Foundation and

Take Pride in America, the National Parks America Tour hosts 28 events each year and provides volunteers and material resources to the National Parks. This enables them to complete a variety of projects including beautification programs, trail restorations, painting and installation of boardwalks to visitor areas.

The program aims to foster a greater appreciation for recreation and outdoors, and shares Take Pride's mission in creating awareness for historical and cultural resources and instilling volunteerism among people of all ages.

You can find the National Parks America Tour at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area on March 4, Joshua Tree National Park on March 11, Saguaro National Park on March 18 and Phoenix Mountain Preserve on March 25.

For a complete schedule or more information about the National Parks America Tour, please visit www.nationalparksamerica.com.

Lend A Hand and Learn on Civil War Preservation Trust Park Day

On Saturday, April 1, history buffs and preservationists of all ages will join forces to clean and restore Civil War-related battlefields, cemeteries and shrines for the Civil War Preservation Trust's annual Park Day. Nearly twenty percent of America's Civil War battlefields have been destroyed, and this event marks an occasion for families to explore and learn about the Civil War heritage, as well as lend a hand in preserving it.

Volunteers will receive t-shirts and have an opportunity to hear local historians describe the significance of the site. To find one of the 95 participating sites near you or for more information about Park Day, visit www.civilwar.org/parkday.



Mary Goundrey, Field Coordinator of the Civil War Preservation Trust, shares the importance of Park Day:

"We look at Park Day as a unique opportunity to raise awareness for the Civil War sites in communities all across the country. Park Day is a chance for these sites to attract large numbers of volunteers simultaneously, giving them the manpower to undertake projects larger in scale and scope than they might otherwise be able to. The work that Park Day volunteer crews are able to accomplish all in one day is simply amazing: last year in Ray-

mond, Mississippi, we filled a 30 cubic yard dumpster with refrigerators, washing machines, aluminum gutters, mattresses and even a water heater from an illegal dump existing on the battlefield. And that's just one of many amazing achievements.



Riley helps her dad plant trees at Lick Run, a battlefield in Chancellorsville, VA.

Almost as important as the work accomplished at these sites is the sense of community cooperation. Cleaning up and repairing historic sites is something that brings generations together, often with civic organizations working alongside scout troops.

This year the stipends that would normally be distributed individually to sites to help offset material costs have been pooled and will be split amongst those participating sites that were affected by recent storms along the Gulf Coast.

We are proud to participate in such an important clean-up effort to restore these one-of-a-kind sites. By caring for these and other sites today, we are ensuring that they are still in a condition that future generations can enjoy as well."

Great Success for Audubon's Great Backyard Bird Count

For the third year in a row, the city of Gautier, Mississippi participated in the National Audubon Society's 'Great Backyard Bird Count' over President's Day weekend. Over 100 people attended a public bird

identification clinic hosted by the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society, the local Audubon club, at Gautier High School on an over-cast Saturday morning.

Participants built birdhouses and feeders, as well as learned how to identify birds and to conduct a GBBC count. The demonstration concluded when the families and children headed to their own neighborhoods to watch for birds throughout the weekend.

Before the clinic, the Mayor of Gautier, local city officials and a representative of the high school received certificates of apprecia-

tion from Take Pride in America and the National Audubon Society (a Take Pride Supporter) for their continued support and participation in the annual event.

Nationwide the GBBC was another success. Over 59,000 checklists were returned following the weekend count, totaling more than 7.4 million birds observed of 603 different species. You can view all North American results and submit your own by visiting www.bird-source.org/gbbc. Thanks to all Take Pride partners, schools and supporters who participated in this fun event!



Don McKee of Audubon Mississippi presents a Certificate of Appreciation to teachers from Gautier High School for their participation.

Cleaner Highways at Cedar Creek Park Thanks to AANR

The skies were gray, but the smiles were bright as eighteen volunteers from the American Association for Nude Recreation set out to clean a three-mile stretch of highway at Cedar Creek Park near Pelion, South Carolina. The AANR members completed about half their project before a heavy downpour offered a little relief, and then it was back to work to finish the clean up. Even though it had only been three months since the last clean up, several garbage bags of litter were collected along the stretch of highway.

That evening, everyone gathered at a pre-Super Bowl party for a low country boil and celebrated the first AANR-East Take Pride in America event. Park representatives and club members were given a plaque to commemorate the event.



Members of the American Association for Nude Recreation, East Region, gather before conducting a roadside clean up in Pelion, South Carolina.

New Take Pride School!

Beatrice Middle School

Beatrice, NE

Principal Randy Schlueter

Thank you...

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride." Please keep sending us articles and photos at TakePride@ios.doi.gov for future newsletter editions or for publication on our website.

2006 National Award Application Available

The application for the 2006 Take Pride National Awards is posted on our website at www.TakePride.gov. Applications can be completed online or submitted via fax.



All Take Pride events are eligible to be nominated, so long as it occurred or is in progress between June 5, 2005 and June 4, 2006. The application deadline is June 16, 2006. The Awards Ceremony will be in September 2006 in Washington, DC.

There are 12 categories for consideration of awards.

- Individual
- School Program (Elementary, Secondary, Post-Secondary)
- State Event/ Program
- Federal Land Managers
- Corporation
- Non-Profit Organization
- Faith Based Group
- Federal Volunteer Event/ Program
- Local Government Event/ Program
- Youth/ Youth Group
- Public/ Private Partnership
- Outstanding Take Pride Partner Award

For Your Information

If you would like our Take Pride Volunteer Guides, brochures or plastic banners for your next event, simply email us the quantity and we will send them to you. Additionally, we have other items that can be sent to help you reward your volunteers for their service. Please call us to discuss your needs.

To view a copy of the Volunteer Guide online, visit http://www.takepride.info/volguide/doi_volguide.pdf

Please continue to look for the Take Pride public service announcements in print and broadcast on television. Let us know if you see one of our ads featuring the Take Pride message and Clint Eastwood.

Email takepride@ios.doi.gov if you have information for our newsletter, or if you have questions.